HUMAN EVENTS

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News Section *Printed in Two Sections*

Happy Chandler: "Happy Chandler spells trouble for the party, state and nation, and nothing else but!" is the word around Democratic headquarters here. In winning the Democratic nomination for governor of Kentucky, baseball's ex-czar licked the state machine led by Governor Wetherby, Senator Clements and "Mr. Democrat" himself, Senator Barkley. Happy won the governorship by a similar feat in 1935 when he upset Governor Laffoon's state machine and he has been a trouble-maker for the Democratic party ever since.

Happy had hardly settled down in the governorship when he announced his willingness to take on The Champ, Senator Barkley, coming up for re-election in 1938. Roosevelt became panicky and summoned Happy to the White House. The President said:

"In 1916, when I was Assistant Secretary of the Navy, President Wilson asked me to run for the Senate. He was running for his second term. He thought I would help carry New York State.

"I replied: 'Mr. President, I am too young to go to the United States Senate.'

"Now, Happy, give yourself a few more years and then come to the Senate."

Quick-thinking Happy snapped back: "Mr. President, I'm 40 years old and I think I'm old enough to be a Senator. When you were 38, you thought yourself old enough to be President of the United States. Weren't you 38 when you accepted the Democratic nomination for the vice presidency? I have never heard that you were at all reluctant about assuming all of the responsibilities that went with the nomination."

The impertinent retort redoubled FDR's opposition. He ordered WPA chief Harry Hopkins to throw the book at the young upstart. Tom Stokes won the Pulitzer prize for his series telling how WPA workers, from one end of the state to the other, were bluntly told to vote for Barkley or face expulsion from the WPA rolls.

Barkley won by a narrow margin, but upon Senator Logan's death in October, 1939, Chandler came to the Senate and remained until 1945 when he resigned to become Baseball Commissioner. In the Senate, from start to finish, he was Roosevelt's enemy; he voted usually with the Southern conservatives.

During the recent campaign, Chandler "promised the voters" that if he became governor, he would retire Clements from the Senate in 1956. On the day after Chandler's victory, Clements made the usual declaration to support the entire ticket, but he and his followers know his chances will be immensely improved if the Republican nominee, Edwin R. Denney, beats Chandler in November. Republicans win in Kentucky only when the Democrats knock each other out.

If elected, Chandler will control the Kentucky delegation to the 1956 convention. He is sympathetic to the Southern wing of the party and is chilly toward Adlai. No shrinking violet, Happy would like to be the dark horse nominee. Failing that, he would not be averse to Ohio's Lausche — although where he would wind up would depend mostly upon who would reward him with the vice presidential nomination.

Lausche: The Lausche-for-President movement may shift into high gear some time this fall under the shrewd direction of Louis Seltzer, editor of the Cleveland *Press*. Seltzer, the Ohio governor's closest friend, would be the behind-the-scenes Jim

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Farley, not the official front man. The famous editor, through the columns of the Cleveland *Press* (Scripps-Howard), has been the principal factor in shaping the destiny of the son of Slovenian immigrants, who advanced from municipal judge to the common pleas bench, then to the office of mayor of Cleveland and finally to the governor's mansion. In appreciation, Lausche offered Seltzer the appointment to the United States Senate after the death of Robert A. Taft, but the editor preferred to remain in Cleveland.

The Democratic governor, who received considerable encouragement at the recent governor's conference, is hesitant. As a Catholic, he fears a repetition of the 1928 campaign. He is a Byrd conservative in a CIO-controlled party. He favors economy in government; he opposes the Welfare State. He coldly snubs the attempts of labor leaders to tell him what he must do. He has never denied that he voted for Taft for the Senate in 1950. Hundreds of thousands of Ohio Republicans vote for him in every election, claiming he is a better Republican than most Republicans. He is Ohio's greatest vote-getter with the possible exception of John Bricker.

The fact that the 1956 Democratic nomination is considered to be of very little value on account of Eisenhower's popularity is the only reason Lausche is given an outside chance to win the Democratic nomination.

The boys at the Republican National Committee grin confidently at the thought of Eisenhower facing Adlai, Averell or Estes. In the present political climate, they think the President could carry almost every state in the union, South as well as North — perhaps losing as few states (2) as did FDR in 1936. However, the GOP brain-trusters shudder at the thought of opposing Lausche. They think he would carry every state in the South and they fear the defection in the North of several million Taft Republicans still smarting under the Dewey-inspired accusation: "Thou shalt not steal." Many conservatives believe Ike will take the country in the direction of the Welfare State much faster than would Lausche.

But, say the Republican headquarters folks, we're not worrying; the CIO won't let Lausche get the Democratic nomination!

Untold Story: Missing from nearly all the press stories about John E. Peurifoy, U.S. Ambassador to Thailand, killed in an auto crash, was mention of the turning point in his career in the State Department.

Peurifoy had advanced to assistant secretary of State and then to deputy undersecretary and was expected to continue the upward climb. At that critical moment, he incurred the bitter enmity of the Secretary of State. He reported that there were 200 homosexuals in the State Department; they were security risks and should be ousted. His demotion to a small-country Ambassadorship and his "exile" to Greece proved to be his great opportunity.

Faure vs. Mendes-France: Observers of the European scene are showing a keen interest in the struggle between Premier Faure and Mendes-France for control of their party, the Radical Socialists. Despite the name, the Radical Socialists have for many years been the nation's dominant conservative party. Faure's government is right-wing. In the French elections set for next June, the wealthy, colorful Mendes-France hopes to take the Radical Socialist Party away from the Faure faction and turn it into a left-of-center party. If he succeeds, it would be the equivalent of Wayne Morse, during the time he was a nominal Republican, capturing the Republican Party.

Mendes-France — who while premier received so many adulatory notices from New Deal columnists and commentators — resembles Morse more than any other American political personality. The physical resemblance is mild; the philosophical resemblance is marked. Mendes-France is an exhibitionist. He professes to advocate private enterprise while continuously pressing for government intervention. (His recent book is a curious conglomeration of Marxism and Keynesianism.) If he fails next June to capture the party, it would be quite in character for him dramatically to quit the party and either join another or form a new one of his own.

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Wage Guarantee — Farm Guarantee: From northwest Kansas comes a report of the effect upon the farming community of the "Guaranteed Annual Wage" contract between Ford and Reuther. On the Saturday before the settlement, an unofficial poll showed 60 percent of the farmers queried to be opposed to wheat acreage restrictions and willing to accept lower price supports. Then came the Ford contract.

A poll taken immediately after, of the same farmers, showed a reversal of the percentages. Now 60 percent favored high supports. The farmers indignantly said that if city folks were to have guaranteed annual incomes, they should, too.

Labor Front: The rivalry between labor leaders is so bitter that each new contract must top all preceding ones. Reuther established SUP (supplemental unemployment pay), but David MacDonald gloats that his new contract with American Can and Continental Can doubled the concessions Reuther won from Ford and General Motors. Reuther got from them a reserve fund which, when fully financed, will — counting state jobless benefits — pay laid-off workers 65 percent of their take-home pay for 4 weeks and 60 percent of it for the next 22 weeks. In the can-making industry, however, laid-off workers with three years seniority will get 65 percent of take-home for 52 weeks.

However, Reuther is making plans for his next coups. He wants 100 percent of take-home for one year and then, after that, he'll go after a two-year benefit period. According to the Reuther philosophy, idleness should provide as good a living as work. Why not? The more money paid out, the greater the nation's purchasing power, says the leading "thinker" in the labor movement.

Many labor experts, however, are disturbed by the trend. They offer evidence of the corrupting influence of the chance to get something for nothing. Current unemployment laws in most states provide that benefits shall not exceed 50 percent of weekly wages. In some states, that amount shall not exceed $25; in other states, $30.

They point out that even with these low benefits, tens of thousands of workers utilize every known trick to avoid being accepted for the jobs to which they are sent. In their numerous subterfuges, they have the support invariably of their unions, occasionally of sympathetic employees in the state unemployment offices, and sometimes of business interests in the resort areas profiting from these evasions.

Boulwarism: Without fanfare, General Electric has signed a 5-year contract with the International Union of Electrical Workers, CIO, granting annual 3 percent wage increases, a cost of living escalator clause, and substantial fringe benefits, but no SUP (supplemental unemployment pay).

The issue of SUP may be brought up during a specified 30-day period in 1958, but the company indicated there would be scant hope — even then — for a change in its traditional opposition to such plans.

In its labor negotiations, GE has been as firm as Ford has been weak. It stands up to the unions and challenges every untruthful claim. When IUE-CIO chief James Carey once threatened a strike, the company made a public announcement that "if it comes, we'll have to take it."

The unions call this attitude "Boulwarism" — after GE Vice President Lemuel R. Boulware.

Boulware conducts a year-around campaign to convince workers that they have good jobs with a good company. When negotiations start, the company discusses terms. If a deadlock ensues, it makes its best offer, publicizing it in full so union leaders may not misrepresent its details to workers, their families, or the communities.

After a reasonable wait, the offer is put into effect for non-union workers and for members of other unions whose leaders accept it.

Settlements have been speeded because for the past eight years there has been no retroactivity to any wage raises not accepted by the specified deadline. The company has stuck rather closely to its "best offer" regardless of strike threats. Union leaders gnash their teeth and call this a "take-it-or-leave-it position." They cry that "the attitude is destructive of collective bargaining." But they give to GE management what they don't always give elsewhere: their respect.

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Most corporation executives have been cowed into allowing union leaders to smear and insult them at will. Boulware wins the admiration of GE employees by his willingness to stand up and trade blows. He has accused Carey of "misconceived master-minding," of making "wild charges," of "leading his members and his fellow-politicians up pay-losing blind alleys," of "not being up to his usual degree of exaggeration."

The GE counteroffensive technique in labor negotiations was the result of a bitter strike in 1947. In their post-mortem of that experience, President Wilson, Vice President Cordiner (now President) and Boulware came to the conclusion that "the company hasn't been acting in labor relations with the same gumption, spunk and forthrightness that it has in engineering, manufacturing and selling."

Since the change, the unions have lost a number of strike votes at GE. Employees vote with the knowledge that "the company will take a strike if it comes."

"Book-Burning": Hollywood's itch to hit at the right is breaking out again after several years of quiescence. *Variety* reports that a screenplay — originally named "The Library," but to be retitled for marquee appeal — is to be put into production September 7.

"Library" concerns a middle-aged librarian — to be played by Bette Davis — who refuses to yield to pressure for the removal of a pro-Communist book. The producers, Blauestein and Faradish, are so enthusiastic about the theme that they have agreed to work without salary or guarantee. It will be a Columbia release.

Reaction in Washington to the *Variety* announcement has been to ask why Columbia does not do a picture with greater historical value. It has often been pointed out that of 30 books on the political situation in China published during the crucial years in the crucifixion of China (1943 to 1949), 23 were pro-Communist (giving the weight of their evidence to the Chinese Communists); only 7 were anti-Communist. The pro-Communist books sold 20 times as many as the pro-China books and probably had 20 times as many copies in the nation's libraries. Every one of the 23 pro-Communist books received glowing approval in the literary reviews to which libraries look for book-buying advice (the *New York Times*, the *Herald Tribune*, the *Nation*, the *New Republic* and the *Saturday Review*). And every one of the anti-Communist books was either roundly condemned or ignored in these same reviews.

A congressman who hasn't yet left Washington comments: "Columbia Pictures! *There's* your story!"

It should be added that Columbia's "The Library" was written in 1952 and is not based upon the recent award by the Ford Fund for the Republic of $5,000 to a Pennsylvania library board which refused to dismiss a librarian named Mrs. Mary Knowles. Mrs. Knowles had invoked the Fifth Amendment when questioned by the Senate Internal Security Committee. Robert M. Hutchins, Fund chairman, said the award was given to the board "for courageous and effective defense of democratic principles."

All-American Books is the name of a new and much-needed publication sponsored by America's Future, 208 East 43rd Street, New York 17, N.Y. A quarterly — $1 a year — it will focus attention on books written by American authors who believe in America.

Letter from ALVIN M. OWSLEY, Past National Commander of the American Legion: "Being a subscriber for many years, I find HUMAN EVENTS is a 'must' reading with me. Always to the point and stands for America. Read it, you'll enjoy its straightforward pronouncements."

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Article Section

LEST IT BE FORGOTTEN

The Intercollegiate Society of Individualists Is Growing — Despite Heavy Odds Against It.

By FRANK CHODOROV

IN SEPTEMBER, 1950, HUMAN EVENTS published an article called "For Our Children's Children." The burden of the article was that the present urgency for socialistic measures stems from the planting of socialistic ideas in the minds of college students a half a century ago, and that the way to reverse the trend is to replace these ideas with the concept of freedom, not in the minds of adults, but in the minds of the present crop of students. Those who have been brainwashed in their formative years must be written off as beyond redemption. The only hope of salvation for the American tradition lies in the coming generations. And, the article continued, it would take a half a century of intensive work among college students to overcome the damage done.

The article met with an enthusiastic reception. Thousands of copies were bought and distributed, and hundreds of letters commending the proposed program were received. Some of the letters were critical; the criticism was that the work should be begun in the kindergartens, not in the colleges.

The idea was allowed to simmer, namely because the means of activating it were not present; that is, the seed money was not available, nor was there anybody around willing to undertake the job.

However, in April, 1952, the Intercollegiate Society of Individualists was incorporated. The incorporation papers allowed for the dissemination among college students of ideas on freedom, the distribution of literature and the promotion of discussion groups. The law allowed, but the means of doing what it allowed were still absent. ISI was, so to speak, all dressed up and no place to go.

WHEN YOU do something, something happens. In the case of ISI, the Foundation for Economic Education offered to mail its literature at regular intervals to students, if there was a list. But, there wasn't any to speak of; only a few names come by in a hit or miss fashion. An invitation was issued, asking for names of college students who might be interested in reading libertarian literature. About six hundred names were sent in, some with letters which pleaded with ISI to "save my son" from socialism. In some envelopes, there were unsolicited checks.

The first mailing of literature to these students met with a mixed reception. About half of them returned a card which said that the writer was not interested and wanted his or her name dropped from the list. That we expected. But what we did not expect was the reason given by a number of students for dropping out; they

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surmised that their names had been sent in by father, mother or maiden aunt, and they seemed to resent this intrusion into their lives by members of their families.

Those who remained on the list became volunteer solicitors; so that, before the college year was out, ISI had an enrollment of two thousand. In the second full year of operation, even though graduates are automatically dropped, the list reached a total of thirty-five hundred; over two hundred colleges are represented. It should be kept in mind that these students are self-selective; in every piece of literature they receive, there is a card reminding the student that dropping out is merely a matter of signing and mailing. There is another card requesting him to hand it to one of his friends who might be interested in the literature. This second card accounts for the growth of ISI.

In addition to the literature of the Foundation, the students were offered books, whenever we had any on hand; which means, whenever some friend supplied us with a quantity. In most cases, the demand exceeded the supply, and we had to suggest to the recipients that they share their books with friends.

Among the titles distributed were Flynn's *The Road Ahead,* Hazlitt's *Economics in One Lesson,* Chodorov's *One Is a Crowd,* Mises' *Bureaucracy, McCarthy and his Enemies* by Buckley and Bozell, Bastiats' *The Law,* Hayek's *The Road to Serfdom.* Altogether in the last college year, 155,000 pieces of literature and 3,000 books were mailed to these students.

NEARLY TWO thousand students were put on the subscription mailing list of HUMAN EVENTS by a number of generous donors. The questionnaire sent out at the end of the season indicated that the weekly newsletter was read on receipt, while the literature and especially the books had to wait for time.

ISI has been aptly described as an "organization of ideas." It was conceived in the belief that ideas have consequences, that if the trend toward collectivism is to be stopped, it will be stopped only by the force of contrary concepts. Right action can only follow right thought.

A people who do not know what freedom is are not in shape to make a fight for it, and it is a truism to say that the American mind has been well cleansed of the philosophy of freedom. Since the advent of the New Deal, which was made possible by previous indoctrination in socialism, the idea that the individual is nothing and that the political machinery is endowed with suprapersonal qualities and capacities has been assiduously stressed in our press, in our textbooks, from the platform and, most particularly, in the propaganda issued by the government itself. Under the circumstances, those who were born since 1932 have had little opportunity to come in contact with the opposite philosophy. Hence, it is fatuous to expect the college student of these days to even know that freedom consists in being allowed to work out one's own life without government interference or guidance; he is more inclined to equate freedom with social security, conscription, regulations, controls and the divine State.

The principal job of those who are convinced that freedom is best, and that government intervention is a prelude to slavery, is to counteract the prevalent indoctrination. That is all that ISI aims

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to do. Underlying its program is a conviction that in the colleges (as elsewhere) there is an "educable elite" — which is nature's protection against the mass mind — who are amenable to libertarian or individualistic ideas. If the right kind of literature can be placed in their hands, they will absorb it, even because it runs contrary to popular notions; for the "educable elite" are always seeking new paths to understand, and are always non-conformist in spirit.

Organization and action programs have a way of suppressing thought. For that reason, ISI assiduously avoids both. It does not disparage the forming of discussion groups among students, but does not encourage the formal organization of such groups. This policy has attracted to ISI the very kind of students most favorable to its purpose, those who seek understanding more than sociability. For quite another reason, organization has been discouraged; it is a well known tactic of the socialists to infiltrate and gain control of organizations; they cannot infiltrate or gain control of unorganized individuals.

In short, ISI consists in fact of nothing but a list of college students who want to read about freedom, about the free economy, about limitations on government, about the supremacy of the individual. If they absorb these values well, there can be no doubt about the direction of their activities during the rest of their lives. The ISI rests its case on this theory. Its program is definitely long-term.

THE LETTERS received from students — and they are many — indicate that the literature has started to do its leavening work. The note of astonishment — "we don't get this kind of stuff in our classes" — that characterizes many of the letters shows an awakening of interest in non-collectivistic ideas. The concepts of limited government and the free market place have been so well eradicated from our educational curriculum that the mere mention of them arouses curiosity; what American students at the turn of the century accepted without question now has, not a "reactionary" — as the professors would have it — but a revolutionary tone. This is understandable; socialism being the going order of things, libertarianism is necessarily the spirit of revolt.

Some of the more outspoken students have carried their new-found knowledge into the classrooms, and have suffered the consequences. Their "radicalism" has cost them grades, and in one case at least a student was threatened with expulsion if he did not conform; in another, a student was called before a faculty committee to give evidence of rampant socialism on the campus, as he had publicly charged. One boy wrote that his professor had labelled ISI literature as "fascist," and had declared that the organization "ought to be suppressed."

This is not to say that ISI and its literature have been uniformly condemned by the faculties. Some professors have welcomed this attempt to offset the collectivistic trend, and have nominated students for the list. But the mail indicates that these are in the minority; many more look upon ISI as a disturbing influence. This antagonistic attitude seems to have promoted the reading of ISI literature, for it thus becomes the "forbidden fruit" so dear to the non-conformist student.

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AMONG ISI students are a number of editors of college publications. From some of them, we have received clippings showing that the literature has influenced editorials. One editor wrote that because of his editorials — "right-wing" of course — a faculty advisor clamped down on him so hard that he had to give up writing. Some mimeographed sheets have been distributed by ISI groups; and at Yale, a rather pretentious and well-written critique of leftist textbooks is published from time to time.

It is a matter of wonderment where the students find time to write the many long letters we receive — from three to six pages. Usually they display the urge for self-expression, the precocity of the developing mind. They want to argue. We do the best we can for them, though our limited facilities do not permit epistolatory debates. The letters show that the students are wrestling with ideas, and the struggle will do them no harm.

Ideas do not live in a vacuum; their habitat is the human mind. But, the seed must be sown if there is to be a flower, or even roots; and it is the purpose of the ISI to do the planting, which is a most important job these days, when the student is carefully insulated against libertarian thought. Despite the claim of impartiality, of "presenting both sides of the case," the faculties, especially in economics and the other so-called "social sciences," carefully protect the young mind from the concepts of limited government and the free economy; and where such concepts do come up, say in the textbooks, they are always covered with contumely. The faculties really should not be blamed for this attitude, for they were reared in a socialistic atmosphere; they do not know any better.

Therefore, if there were no ISI, or something like it, the blackout of individualism would be as complete as the blackout of all culture during the Dark Ages. Future generations would indeed have to dig out of their own understanding the principle of the dignity of man, and out of bitter experience learn that the State can do no good. Those on the ISI list will probably be able to pass on to their offspring knowledge they cannot get in the classroom; that is the least gain from this effort.

To be more effective, ISI needs more names of receptive students. Readers of HUMAN EVENTS are asked to send in such names and their college addresses.

If you wish to help pay for gift subscriptions of HUMAN EVENTS to be sent to ISI members, send your check made out to the "Intercollegiate Society of Individualists." Address it "in care of HUMAN EVENTS, 1835 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C." College-year subscriptions (8 months) are $5.50. You can pay for five such subscriptions for $27.50; 10 for $55; 20 for $110; 100 for $550.

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